DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for allowance

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

    Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mehran Arjomand (Reg.No. 48,231) on October 09, 2009. An agreement was reached to amend claims **1, 5, 6** and cancel **claim 2** as shown further below.

    Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising: an input device that inputs image signals for a plurality of channels; a storage device that stores a plurality of kinds of processing procedures to be performed on the image signals; an operating element that specifies, as target processing procedures, at least two kinds of processing procedures among the plurality of kinds of processing procedures stored in said storage device, and enables at least one of the target processing specified procedures and also at least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures to be arbitrarily specified; and a processing device operable when the at least one processing procedure between the target processing

procedures is specified said operating element, that generates the specified at least
one processing procedure by interpolating the target processing procedures, and
carries out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one
corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by
said input device according to the generated specified at least one processing
procedure; and an output device that outputs an image signal, and wherein said
processing device outputs the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in
real time via said output device.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An image processing method that operates on
and modifies image signals from an input device comprising the steps of: storing in a
processor readable storage device a plurality of kinds of processing procedures
to be performed on the image signals; when an operating element specifies, as target
processing procedures, at least two kinds of processing procedures among the stored
plurality of kinds of processing procedures stored in said storage device, and enables at
least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures generating
by a processing unit the specified at least one processing procedure between the target
processing procedures by interpolating the target processing procedures, and carrying
out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding
channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by an said input

device according to the generated specified at least one processing procedure; and <u>an outputting the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in real time via said output device.</u>

   Claim 6 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to execute an image processing method that operates on a plurality of image signals from an input device, the method of instructions provide for: storing in a processor readable storage device a plurality of kinds of processing procedures to be performed on the image signals; when an operating element that specifies, as target processing procedures, at least two kinds of processing procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of processing procedures stored in said storage device, and enables at least one processing procedure between the specified target processing procedures generating by a processing unit the specified at least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures by interpolating the target processing procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by said input device according to the generated specified at least one processing procedure; and <u>an outputting the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in real time via said output device.</u>

Reasons for allowance

2.   **The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance**: Claims
1, 3, 4-5 and 6 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the
specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or Toro Co. v. White Consolidated Industries Inc.,
199 F.3d 1295, 1301, 53 USPQ2d 1065, 1069 (Fed. Cir. 1999), none of the references
of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations
specified in independent claims 1, 5, and 6, including dependent [claims 3 and 4]
depend on the allowed main claims as discussed further below.

Specifically, *referring to claim 1, 3 and 4*, the prior art searched and of record
neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed invention as amended. In particular, an
image processing method that operates on and modifies image signals from an input
device comprising the steps of: storing in a processor readable storage device a
plurality of kinds of processing procedures to be performed on the image signals; when
an operating element specifies, as target processing procedures, at least two kinds of
processing procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of processing procedures
stored in said storage device, and enables at least one processing procedure between
the target processing procedures generating by a processing unit the specified at least
one processing procedure between the target processing procedures by interpolating

the target processing procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by an said input device according to the generated specified at least one processing procedure; and an output device that outputs an image signal, and wherein said processing device outputs the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in real time via said output device.

As to claim 5, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method that operates on and modifies image signals from an input device comprising the steps of: storing in a processor readable storage device a plurality of kinds of processing procedures to be performed on the image signals; when an operating element specifies, as target processing procedures, at least two kinds of processing procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of processing procedures stored in said storage device, and enables at least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures –generating by a processing unit the specified at least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures by interpolating the target processing procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by an said input device according to the generated specified at least one processing procedure; and an output device that outputs an image signal, and wherein said processing device outputs the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in real time via said output device.

Regarding claim 6, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests a computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to execute an image processing method that operates on a plurality of image signals from an input device, the method of instructions provide for: storing in a processor readable storage device a plurality of kinds of processing procedures to be performed on the image signals; when an operating element that specifies, as target processing procedures, at least two kinds of processing procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of processing procedures stored in said storage device, and enables at least one processing procedure between the specified target processing procedures generating by a processing unit the specified at least one processing procedure between the target processing procedures by interpolating the target processing procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by said input device according to the generated specified at least one processing procedure; and an output device that outputs an image signal, and wherein said processing device outputs the image signal, subjected to the real-time processing, in real time via said output device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is (571)272-
7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the
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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information
system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Negussie Worku/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625